

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08510 141947Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-02 L-03 /018 W
-----150139Z 066968 /66-61 R
R 141530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8694
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 8510

DEPT PASS HUD FOR HANCOCK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: SUMMARY OF U.S. DELEGATION VISIT
AND JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING (10.01)

REF: STATE 131496

1. TWO U.S. HOUSING DELEGATIONS (BUILDING AND DESIGN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, 10.0101 AND 10.0102) ENJOYED SUCCESSFUL VISITS TO THE USSR MAY 8-23 UNDER SUBJECT AGREEMENT. A 10.01 JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING, LIKEWISE SUCCESSFUL, CAPPED U.S. DELEGATIONS' STAY.

2. SOVIETS GAVE THE U.S. DELEGATIONS A WARM RECEPTION AND WERE OPEN AND COMMUNICATIVE IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS. U.S. DELEGATION MEMBERS ADVISED SCIENCE OFFICE OF THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS AND COOPERATIONS. THE SOVIETS HOSTED USEFUL VISITS FOR THE DELEGATIONS TO INSTITUTES, FACTORIES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, MINSK AND KIEV. DESPITE SOVIET HOSPITALITY AND OPENNESS, U.S. DELEGATIONS FAILED TO BE IMPRESSED WITH THE GENERAL QUALITY OF ACTUAL SOVIET CONSTRUCTION. SOVIET CONSTRUCTION WORK AND STANDARDS CONTINUE TO BE SLOPPY, DELEGATION MEMBERS OBSERVED, THOUGH THE SOVIETS ARE DOING
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08510 141947Z

RESEARCH WORK IN PARTICULAR AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES THAT IS OF INTEREST AND POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO THE U.S. THESE AREAS INCLUDE ACOUSTICS, NATURAL LIGHTING, AND HEAT TRANSFER.

3. GOSSTROY HOSTED THE 10.01 - BUILDING DESIGN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT-JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING IN MOSCOW FOLLOWING

COMPLETION OF U.S. DELEGATIONS' TRAVEL ITINERARY. U.S. PARTICIPANTS CHARACTERIZED JWGM AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE. THE SOVIETS WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, TAKING THEIR CUE APPARENTLY FROM ALEXANDER A. BOROVVOY, THE NEW SOVIET JWG CO-CHAIRMAN. U.S. PARTICIPANTS REPORTED THAT BOROVVOY HAS BREATHED A MORE POSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT INTO THE SOVIET SIDE AND THIS CONTRIBUTED IN A MAJOR WAY TO MAKING THE JWGM THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND CONGENIAL GATHERING IN THE THREE YEAR HISTORY OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. THEY REPORTED MAJOR PROGRESS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF JOINT ACTIVITY:

- THE U.S. AND USSR PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO PRODUCE A GLOSSARY OF BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TERMINOLOGY. COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT WILL AID 10.01 COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY CONSIDERABLY AND WILL PROBABLY BE OF BENEFIT TO JOINT WORK IN OTHER JWGS UNDER THE HOUSING AGREEMENT. IT WAS AGREED TO EXCHANGE EXPERTS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1977 TO BEGIN WORK IN THE GLOSSARY AND TO FOLLOW THIS EXCHANGE WITH A SECOND MEETING DEVOTED TO COMPLETING WORK IN THIS SPECIFIC PROJECT.
- THE U.S. AND USSR PARTICIPANTS ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER EXPANSION OF JWG ACTIVITY TO INCLUDE ENERGY CONSERVATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF BUILDING DESIGN AND THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE.
- BOTH SIDES AGREED TO DEVELOP A JWG PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE RESTORATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES.

4. COMMENT - THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT U.S. DELEGATION VISITS UNDER THIS JWG COUPLED WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE 10.01 JWG MEETING INDICATE THAT BOTH SIDES ARE MOVING FORWARD IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 08510 141947Z

AREA. A SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS ENCOURAGE THE EMBASSY TO VIEW IN A POSITIVE LIGHT CONTINUED COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY IN THIS JWG. THE SELECTION OF ALEXANDER BOROVVOY AS CO-CHAIRMAN PROMISES APPARENTLY A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE TO JOINT ACTIVITY. SOVIETS MOREOVER AGREED TO EMBARK ON THE GLOSSARY PROJECT WHICH, SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY IN OTHER JWGS. FINALLY, THE SOVIETS ARE EXPENDING CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES ON BASIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA, RESEARCH THAT US SPECIALISTS ADVISED COULD HAVE VALUE FOR US CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES IN THE FUTURE. SO LONG AS THE SOVIETS EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF THEIR EXPERIMENTAL WORK IN SUCH AREAS OF BUILDING TECHNIQUES OR ACOUSTICS, NATURAL LIGHTING, ETC., WE SEE UTILITY IN CONTINUING THE ACTIVITY OF THIS JWG. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOUSING, AGREEMENTS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770659/aaaabzvl.tel
Line Count: 113
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bbca417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 131496
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2159136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: SUMMARY OF U.S. DELEGATION VISIT AND JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING (10.01)
TAGS: TGEN, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbca417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009